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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Society for Sport and Technical Matters (OST). 2. VdA Personalities	DATE DISTR.	3 February 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Possible Reorganization:

The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the GBT, Arno Berthold, formerly a Chief Inspector of the People's Police, returned on 19 July from a command visit to Moscow with three of his closest colleagues. It is commonly assumed that he was in Moscow to receive instructions and guidance on the build-up of the GBT and on its methods of training. Senior paid officials anticipate some changes and reorganization as a result of the visit.

2. Control of the GST:

- a. The GBT is controlled by the Central Committee of the SED in general, and by Robbelin, personnel chief on the committee, in particular.¹
- b. General instructions are issued from Halle. Individual clubs may adapt details to local conditions and facilities, but must adhere to the general uniform plan.

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "S".)

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5. Flying:

- a. Two areas, one at Kreuzbrunn, between Berlin and Oranienburg, and the other at Heinersdorf, have been allocated to the GST Bezirk Gross Berlin as additional glider training areas.
- b. Gliders of the GST are to be equipped with blind-flying equipment and position lights for night flying, but none has been fitted so far.

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6. Morale:

The top paid officials are tried and proven old Communists. Those immediately subordinate to them do as much as they have to do to keep their paid posts, but little more. The bulk of the members are attracted by the cheap subscriptions: 25 pfennigs for students and pensioners, 50 pfennigs for those earning up to 350 marks per month, and 1 mark for those earning 600 marks. This entitles them to all the facilities of the GST, such as gliding, riding, shooting, and so on.

There is some grumbling because the quantity of available equipment has lagged far behind the growth of the membership. There is only a framework of paid officials with a few paid instructors, the remainder of the officials and instructors being honorary. Nevertheless, a basic organization exists. Given the necessary funds and equipment, it could easily be expanded and made reasonably efficient.

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B. VdA Personalities:

1. Colonel Alter expects to be moved from his present post in the near future, as a result of reorganization in the VdA. It is not clear whether he is to be transferred within his present service or is to be retired.

2. Major Kraemer, formerly in the VdA Personnel Department of the VdA, is now deputy chief of the Personnel Department of the GST.

Comments:

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1. Possibly Gustav Roebelin, reportedly the chief of the SED's Department for Economic Protection.

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